

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraphs for corresponding Standard Paragraphs in the specification:

[0001] The present invention is concerned with a protective breathing hood. In particular, the invention is concerned with a protective device collapsible into a pocket-sized article readily available and easily donned for protecting an individual from the risk of inhaling hazardous material, e.g. poisonous gases and biologic material.

[0004] Recently, there has been ever growing interest in readily available, lightweight, portable protective breathing equipment for use by civilians and which may be easily carried daily, e.g. in a purse, bag or readily stored at office buildings, etc. Such devices are designed for easy donning in case of an emergency, e.g. outbreak of a fire, leak of some chemical substance or in case of a terror attack in which biological warfare agents such as anthrax germs are spread. In such instances time is a critical factor in survival.

[0005] For example, in case of fire breakout in buildings occupying many people such as large office buildings, hotels, and halls, where many people gather simultaneously, it may take a while until the professional teams arrive, e.g. fire fighters, hazardous-material professionals, etc., whereby it is advantageous that each and every person carry with him, or be readily provided with a protective breathing mask.

[0007] U.S. Pat. Ser. No. 5,875,775 discloses a structure which is basically similar to that disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,870,959, with the improvement comprising a one-way respirator adapted for maintaining the mouth and nose spaced apart from the filter portion for efficiently directing breathing efforts to equalize inhalation airflow via substantially all of the filter while the one-way valve eases exhalation airflow and reduces condensation on the interior side of the visor.

[0008] It is an object of the present invention to provide a personal protective breathing mask which may be collapsed into a pocket-size package, readily available for use and easily donned to provide a protective breathing device which is affordable and instantly useful in protecting individuals at the event of toxic air, chemical and biologic emergencies.

[0016] In accordance with one particular embodiment of the present invention the hood is made of silicon material whereby in accordance with one specific design the entire hood is transparent. Alternatively, a portion of the hood has a distinctive color.

[0031] It is to be appreciated that the visor 20 may be formed in other shapes and forms, e.g. two eye pieces extending opposite the eye locations of the hood or, the arrangement may be such that the entire hood 12 may be transparent and accordingly no particular visor is provided. Alternatively, at least a portion of the hood has a distinctive color. Preferably, at least a visor portion of the hood is transparent.

Please add the following paragraphs, to follow Standard Paragraph [0038]:

[0038a] The activated charcoal particles are in the form of loose granulated material. By way of example, the size of the loose granulated activated charcoal particles is about 0.5 to 1 mm. The activated charcoal particles may also be formed with a suitable carrying matrix in the form of pellets receivable in the receptacles.